(d) if so, the details thereof together with the action being taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) As per the existing guidelines, prospective customers seeking new LPG connections from the distributors of PSU oil companies are at liberty to procure LPG stoves/hot-plates from any source, provided the same are of approved make.

(c) and (d) Whenever complaints are received by the Government regarding the alleged forced sale of hot-plates by distributors, the same is investigated by the concerned oil company and action is taken against the guilty, as per LPG distributorship agreement etc. from time to time.

Appointment of Petrol Pump Dealers in Bihar

†369. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places in Bihar where interviews for appointment of petrol pump and gas agency dealers are required to be held;

(b) the reason for delay in appointment of dealers whereas the applications were invited long time back; and

(c) by when Government would make these appointments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c): There are 205 retail outlets dealerships and 154 LPG distributorships in Bihar where advertisements have been issued and interviews are required to be held. Dealers Selection Boards for Bihar are presently not functioning. Selection of dealers/distributors will commence with the reactivation of the selection process.

Allotment of Petrol Pumps to Families of Kargil Victims

†370. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families of those killed in Rajasthan in Kargil war, which have been allotted petrol or diesel pumps so far; if not, by when the same will be allotted to them; and

(b) the number of petrol/diesel pumps decided to be allotted to the families of those killed in Kargil war in the country, State-wise?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNOUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The Government have formulated a Special Scheme for allotment of 500 retail outlets (ROs) dealerships/LPG distributorships to the widows/NOKs of Defence personnel killed in action. Allotments are to be made on the recommendation of the Ministry of Defence. The Directorate General of Resettlement have sent two lists containing a total of 260 proposed beneficiaries for allotment of RO dealerships/LPG distributorship under this Scheme. These include the names of 38 persons belonging to Rajasthan. On the basis of economic feasibility surveys already conducted by Oil Companies the Government have approved the allotment of LPG distributorships/RO dealerships to 116 persons in different States, including 16 persons belonging to Rajasthan.

Oil and Natural Gas Reserves in Rajasthan

†371. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petroleum and natural gas reserves found so far in Rajasthan; and

(b) the place-wise progress made in exploitation of petroleum/natural gas in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The estimated ultimate recoverable reserves of gas as on 1.4.99 established in Jaisalmer basin of Rajasthan by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (Oil) is 4.572 Billion Cubic Metre. The ultimate reserves of heavy crude oil at Bikaner-Nagaur basin of Rajasthan is estimated by OIL, as on 1.4.99 to be 2.19 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT).

The Private/Joint Venture Companies have recently discovered oil in Barmer district of Rajasthan. The extent of reserves from the discovery, commercial viability etc. are yet to be ascertained.

So far no commercial production of crude oil from Rajasthan by OIL has been made in view its being heavy oil. The sale of gas from Rajasthan was 158.73 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metre (MMSCUM) in 1998-99 and 81.443 MMSCUM in 1999-2000 (up to Oct. 1999).

Joint Gas Pipeline with Iran

372. SHRI SITARAM KESRI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to revive the proposal for laying a gas prpeline jointly by India and Iran, the proposal which was shelved earlier;